



# DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 53<sup>rd</sup> regular session

**Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's report  
on the situation of human rights in the Sudan**

**Oral statement**

*Delivered by: Hassan Shire*

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, on 15 April 2023, a united civil society issued a [call](#) on states to urgently convene a special session of the Human Rights Council and establish an investigative mechanism.

The Council acted on the first part of our call; however, it failed to act on the second. We [welcome](#) the holding of a special session on 11 May 2023 but regret that its outcome was below what is needed to send the right signal to all actors, including warring parties.

It is pathetic that neighbouring powers, who have no interest in seeing a democratic Sudan at their borders, actively opposed Council action despite risks of atrocity crimes.

Mr. President,

The Council should stand ready to strengthen its action. Pursuant to resolutions S-32/1 and S-36/1, the High Commissioner and the designated Expert should continue to report on the situation in Sudan and advise on the further steps that may be needed.

We reiterate our call to establish an independent mechanism to investigate violations and advance accountability in Sudan. Such investigation should address the gender dimensions of violations, their extent, and whether they may constitute international crimes. It should establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of violations; collect and preserve evidence; and identify, where possible, those individuals and entities responsible.

Thank you.